

Guidelines for the

First Church

Memorial Garden

A Message from our Ministers

Dear Friends in Christ,

First Church is pleased to offer our Memorial Garden, as well as our services, as part of our care to you in your time of need. Especially designed to offer our members and families a place of serenity and beauty, this Garden is a welcome addition to our ministry of bereavement and has proven to be a source of ongoing comfort and peace. Many find this lovely resting place to be one in which enduring memories of your loved ones can be cherished.

The Ministers

First Church of Christ, UCC

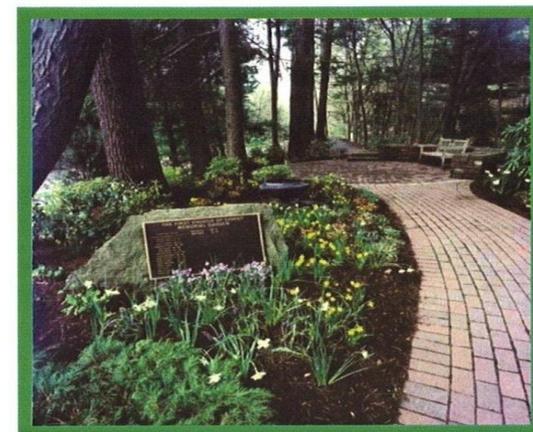
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First Church of Christ

Simsbury, CT

Purpose of the Memorial Garden

The purpose of the Memorial Garden is to provide a portion of our church property for the caring disposition of the cremated remains of loved ones in a handsome, dignified, and meditative setting.

Use

Present and former members and their families, as well as friends, of First Church may use the Garden for the committal of the ashes of loved ones. Ashes will be interred directly into the ground or in a biodegradable container. There will be no family memorials within the Garden. Any enhancements, such as flowers, shrubs or ground cover, may be added only at the discretion of the Memorial Garden Committee. Use of the Garden will be solely by the agreement between representatives of the loved one's family and First Church.

Memorial Plaques

Uniform plaques will be engraved with the names of the deceased and the years of birth and death, and mounted permanently in the Garden. The information for the plaque must be submitted in writing and sent to the First Church of Christ, Simsbury, to the attention of our Membership Coordinator. A representative of the deceased will be responsible for paying the cost of the memorial plaque with its engraving.

Funding

To help cover the cost of maintaining a beautiful Memorial Garden, present and former members of First Church and their families will be charged a one-time fee of \$500 at the time of the interment of a loved one (plus the cost of the memorial plaque with its engraving). For those who are not members, an additional fee (plus the cost of the memorial plaque with its engraving) will apply.

Gifts to the **Memorial Garden Fund** are welcome at any time and will be used for maintenance and future enhancements of the Garden. **All gifts and fees should be made payable to First Church of Christ, Simsbury, and designated for the Memorial Garden Fund on the check.**

In addition, a **Memorial Garden Endowment Fund** has been established, dedicated to support the Garden. The investment income from this fund will be used solely to cover additional Garden expenses. **All checks for this should be made payable to First Church of Christ, Simsbury, and designated for the Memorial Garden Endowment Fund.**

Authority and Responsibility

The Memorial Garden Committee consists of five members; the Senior Minister is an ex-officio member. The Committee works closely with the Board of Trustees when making decisions concerning the alterations and maintenance of the Garden.

The Committee supervises the maintenance, enhancement, and use of the Garden. While every effort is made to maintain the integrity of the Garden, First Church reserves the final right to alter its design and will not be liable for loss or damage within the Garden.

No property right of any kind, whether expressed, implied, real or personal, is established by entering into the Memorial Garden agreement with First Church of Christ, Simsbury.

Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance is kept in the nearby church parlor. It contains a page for a picture of the deceased, copy of the obituary, and other appropriate materials, provided by the family. A copy of each page will also be kept separately in a secure place in the church.